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Cayman Islands

1959 and 1960

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

Report for the years
1959 & 1960

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1961

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PART I

General Review

THE islands' economy during 1959 and 1960 continued to depend to a marked degree on the wages of Cayman Islands seamen employed in American-owned ships flying flags of convenience. At any time upwards of 1,000 seamen are so employed away from their homes for an average period of eighteen months, the great majority making regular dollar remittances to their families. There is always a small pool of seamen ready to answer a call back to sea, but the manpower resources of the islands can be extended little, if any, further to meet this demand. The economy must therefore find other directions in which to expand, and a number of likely developments are dealt with elsewhere in this Report. At the present stage in the progress of the islands it may be said that nowhere else in the West Indies is the standard of living of the ordinary people higher, while the complete absence of beggars or of real poverty is a frequent source of comment by visitors. Caymanians are an independent, proud but friendly people who take care of their own; as a result the demands upon the Government for relief payments are small.

In order of economic importance the islands' industries may be listed as the export of seamen, the tourist industry, manufacture of thatch rope, turtle and shark fishing and, lastly, the sale of coconuts and copra. The tourist industry is expanding, but the winter season remains all too short. There is a very great potential, particularly if the tourist season can be extended. The islands have much to offer the discriminating visitor, and lower hotel tariffs during the summer months may eventually result in a wider spread of this traffic over the year. This industry offers the most promising cushion against any falling off in the employment of seamen. Turtle-fishing and thatch rope manufacture are traditional industries now conducted on a much smaller scale than formerly. Coconut and copra production, unfortunately, are now of almost negligible importance following the devastation of many plantations by disease. Efforts are being made to introduce disease-resistant strains.

The absence of a high proportion of the able-bodied men serving in ships throughout the world, coupled with the relatively high wages paid to seamen, has caused a steady increase in the wages demanded by labourers and artisans. The former, particularly, are

now very highly paid in comparison with their counterparts elsewhere in the West Indies. High wages among certain classes of the community, the decline in farming activity and the resulting need to import the bulk of staple foodstuffs, the continuing reliance on import duties as the chief source of revenue, the multiplicity of small traders and the high transshipment charges on goods imported through Jamaica all play their part in raising the cost of living. There is also a trend, small at present but noticeable, for the presence of American visitors and winter residents to boost prices.

DEVELOPMENT

During 1959 and 1960, 22 miles of tarmac road were completed from West Bay to Bodden Town. Sections of the road between Bodden Town, North Side and East End were also brought up to a higher standard. A new elementary school was completed in George Town, which was formally opened during 1960. An extension to the George Town hospital and the construction of a new dental clinic were also undertaken during 1960, the former financed to a substantial extent by the public, and the latter by Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

A four-year Development Plan, first drafted during 1959, was approved during 1960. This calls for capital expenditure over the four years of some £280,000 and recurrent expenditure of about £10,000 in the first year rising to almost £24,000 in the final year. It is proposed that this Plan should be financed partly from the islands' allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare funds, partly from loan funds (external and local) and partly from normal revenues.

Among the projects to be undertaken are a number of public buildings including a police station and gaol, Government offices, a residence for the Administrator, a new airport building, a new warehouse and wharf improvements, houses for Government officers, the purchase of heavy equipment, new road construction, mosquito control and substantial improvements to the Education and Public Health Services.

CONSTITUTION

Under the new constitution brought into effect on 4th July 1959 the Cayman Islands ceased to be a dependency of Jamaica, although the Governor of Jamaica continued as the Governor of the Cayman Islands. The islands, however, remained within the Federation of The West Indies.

RELATIONS WITH JAMAICA

This Report would not be complete without a grateful acknowledgment of the invaluable assistance provided by the Government of Jamaica. This, as in the past, has taken the form of expert advice in all departments of Government and the secondment of trained personnel, mainly medical, legal, teaching and engineering. In spite of the altered relationship of the islands to Jamaica, the generous and ready assistance on which the islands depend so greatly has continued undiminished.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Figures indicating the buoyancy of the islands' revenue are given elsewhere in this Report. In the absence of income tax, death duties or direct taxation on property, the islands depend to a very large measure on revenues from import duties. In many respects this is unfortunate, but wherever possible these duties are relaxed on essential items. During 1960, for example, a considerable number of items were added to the duty-free schedule. Measures introduced during 1960 (which had not been enacted by the end of the year) included a Companies Law, amending legislation to impose a tax on land transactions and a small tax on tourist accommodation. It is expected that these measures will add to the Government's revenues and serve the dual purpose of helping to finance the Development Plan and enabling further reductions to be made on import duties.

The very small staff of Government officers has managed to deal effectively with the greatly increased volume of business. Leave and sickness at times have imposed great strains on the staff, and from time to time it has been necessary to seek aid from Jamaica in providing specialist relief staff. With increasingly complex legislation to administer, it is to be expected that, for some years at least, trained and experienced staff will have to be obtained from elsewhere.

TREATY WITH NICARAGUA

The treaty with Nicaragua, under which Caymanian fishermen had for many years caught turtles in Nicaragua waters off the Misquito Cays, expired during the period and negotiations were put in hand to obtain a 20-year licence made necessary by a new Nicaraguan law.

WEATHER

During 1959 and 1960 there were fortunately no hurricanes affecting the islands, nor were there any serious storms. Very adequate warning is now obtained of the passage of hurricanes that might affect the islands, giving time for precautions to be taken.

Unusually heavy rains during the winter of 1959-60 produced at times an unpleasantly high temporary population of mosquitoes for the time of the year. In a few cases these visitations had an adverse effect on the tourist traffic. To compensate for this there were long periods during the summer of 1960 during which the mosquitoes were noticeably absent.

VISITS

The Cayman Islands were greatly honoured by the presence of their first Royal Visitor, H.R.H. the Princess Royal, at Grand Cayman on 22nd March 1960. The Princess travelled in H.M.Y. *Britannia*. An address of welcome from the Legislative Assembly was presented to the Princess at the park which she graciously declared open as "The Princess Royal Park." A purse made from the skin of a shark caught by a Caymanian fisherman was presented to the Princess. His Excellency Sir Kenneth Blackburne, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., and Lady Blackburne joined in the celebrations.

The Royal visit was richly enjoyed by all.

The Governor and Lady Blackburne paid visits to the Cayman Islands in October 1959 for the opening of the new Legislative Assembly, and again from 18th to 22nd March 1960 and 28th November to 3rd December 1960.

Sir Alexander Bustamante and the Honourable William Seivright represented the Government of Jamaica at the opening ceremony of the Legislature on 4th October 1959.

H.M.S. *Ulster* with Commodore W. J. Parker, O.B.E., D.S.C., Senior Naval Officer, West Indies on board, and the Swedish Naval Training vessel *Alvsnabben* visited Grand Cayman in February 1959.

The Belgian Training Ship *Mercator* visited Grand Cayman in March 1959.

In February 1960 H.M.S. *Troubridge* with Commodore H. C. J. Shand, D.S.C., Senior Naval Officer, West Indies on board, visited Grand Cayman.

SURVEYS

The air survey of the islands which was carried out late in 1958 under the aegis of the Directorate of Overseas Surveys was followed during 1960 by a small team of the Directorate's ground surveyors, who established a chain of ground check points to enable maps of the islands to be produced from the photographs. It is expected that the maps of the islands, to the scale 6 inches to the mile, will be available by the end of 1961. Certain areas, it is hoped, will be mapped to a larger scale.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

A census was carried out in 1960; the full analysis is not yet available, but the preliminary figures are given below:

	<i>House-holds</i>	<i>Empty Houses</i>	<i>Present at time of census</i>			<i>Absent at time of census</i>	<i>Total</i>
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>		
Grand Cayman .	1,549	143	2,592	3,753	6,345	926	7,271
Cayman Brac .	338	49	525	723	1,248	260	1,508
Little Cayman .	10	6	10	13	23	1	24
TOTALS .	1,897	198	3,127	4,489	7,616	1,187*	8,803

* Majority were seamen.

The earliest record of population is for the year 1774, when the total was estimated to be 176. By 1802, when a census was undertaken by an officer appointed for that purpose by the Governor of Jamaica, the total had risen to 933, of whom 545 were slaves. The figures for 1891, 1911, 1921, and 1943 were 4,322, 5,564, 5,253, 6,009 and 6,670 respectively.

Of the 1943 total, 1,052 were of African, 3,518 of mixed and 2,100 of European descent (the islands are unique in the West Indies in their high proportion of inhabitants of European descent). The 1943 census also revealed the number of males per 100 females to be 80, as against 70 in 1934 and 73 in 1921; on both the earlier occasions, however, absent males were not taken into account.

Birth, death and marriage rates per 1,000 of the population for the years 1956-1960 were as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Total Marriages</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
1956 .	235	25.98	62	5.75	79	8.95
1957 .	248	27.41	60	6.63	65	7.04
1958 .	207	22.40	66	7.14	52	5.55
1959 .	272	30.91	50	5.68	66	8.66
1960 .	264	30.00	54	6.14	62	7.04

Statistics of migration during the same period were as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Inward</i>	<i>Outward</i>	<i>Plus or Minus</i>
1956 . . .	3,218	2,572	+ 646
1957 . . .	3,654	3,783	- 129
1958 . . .	4,648	4,158	+ 490
1959* . . .	1,477	1,395	+ 82
1960* . . .	1,755	1,830	- 75

* Account was not taken of in-transit passengers in 1959 and 1960.

Any account of the population of the Islands would be misleading if attention were not drawn to the steady emigration which has occurred throughout the past 80 years. Up to the turn of the century many Caymanians migrated to the Central American Republics (principally Nicaragua and Spanish Honduras, where there are still Caymanian communities) and to Cuba. After the turn of the century, large numbers migrated to the United States, the initial impetus being given by the opportunities of employment offered by the construction of the Florida East Coast Railway between 1903 and 1912. With the spectacular development of Florida which has since taken place, more and more Caymanians have been drawn to the United States: it is now probable that there are permanently resident overseas (principally in the United States and most as United States citizens) more Caymanians or persons of Caymanian parentage than there are in the islands. Immigration restrictions have slowed down the drift to the United States.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS AND WAGES

A high proportion of the males between the ages of 18 and 50 are seafarers, of whom the great majority are employed in American-owned tankers and bulk-carrying cargo ships. Those employed in the American-owned ships enjoy basic wages of from £35 monthly to as high as £225 monthly in the case of qualified deck and engineering staff. These wages are supplemented by overtime payments. Seamen employed in other shipping lines and, for example, in turtle fishing, receive more modest wages. The generally high level of wages at sea has resulted in a shortage of male labour on shore, and the labour that is available is expensive. There is no unemployment, except among a very few incorrigible wasters or those physically unfit for work.

Rates for unskilled labour vary from 18s. to as high as 35s. or even 40s. daily for casual work. Artisans receive £2 10s. 0d. to £5 daily, depending upon ability. The cost of female labour is low in relation to male wages. Shop assistants receive an average of £10 per month, and domestic servants an average of £8 to £10, usually with full or partial board. The expansion of the tourist industry and

the presence of a number of winter homes owned by Americans is tending to raise the wages of domestic servants.

The thatch rope industry is largely a female occupation, and earnings range between £2 and £4 weekly. Earnings are one-third higher than formerly, as a price increase of this amount was negotiated during 1960. Those engaged in the industry are invariably self-employed.

A 40-hour working week is normal, but shop assistants work longer hours, as do some, but by no means all, domestic servants.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living continues high for three main reasons. The attractions of the sea have led to a virtual abandonment of local agriculture, the high level of seamen's wages have been followed by high male wages ashore, and in the absence of income tax, property tax and inheritance tax, customs duties remain high on most imports.

The bulk of the islands' foodstuffs are imported from the United States and Jamaica, the basic items being bread, rice, beans, corn meal, sugar and coffee, supplemented by locally grown and imported vegetables such as yams, cassava, bread fruit and pumpkins. Fruit, fresh and salt meat and fish and the traditional turtle form the main supplements. Prices of common commodities at the end of 1959 and 1960 were as follows:

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>1960</i>
Flour	lb.	9½d.		9½d.
Corn meal	lb.	9d.		9d.
Sugar (white)	lb.	8d.		10d.
Beans	lb.	1s. 6d.		1s. 6d.
Rice	lb.	1s. 6d.		1s. 6d.
Fresh beef	lb.	3s. 0d.		3s. 6d.
Fresh pork	lb.	3s. 0d.		3s. 6d.
Fresh fish	lb.	1s. 6d.		2s. 0d.
Salt beef	lb.	2s. 6d.		2s. 9d.
Codfish	lb.	2s. 6d.		3s. 0d.
Kerosene	Imp. gallon	3s. 0d.		2s. 6d.
Gasolene	Imp. gallon	3s. 4d.		2s. 8d.
Matches	box	1½d.		1½d.
Cigarettes	packet of 20	1s. 7d.		1s. 7d.

The cost of running a house for a married couple, including food, rent, servants' wages, laundry, lighting and a moderate amount of entertaining would be in the range £100–£200 monthly depending upon the type of accommodation rented and the reliance placed on imported foodstuffs. This figure would be considerably higher if meals and drinks were obtained to a large extent in the hotels, or if, for example, a fishing boat or motor car were hired.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Trade Union Law of 1942 provides for the formation, registration, rights, powers and control of trades unions. In December 1946 the Minimum Wage Law was passed, the Regulations made thereunder being approved by the Governor in July 1947. This Law gives power to fix a minimum wage for employees where the wages paid are unreasonably low; no orders have so far been made under it. There is no factory legislation.

One trade union is registered in the Cayman Islands, the Global Seaman's Union, with a registered office in George Town. As its name implies, membership is not restricted to Cayman Islands seamen, but almost all Caymanians serving in American-owned ships flying flags of convenience are members. Union dues are paid only while the seamen are in employment. Total membership is some 5,000, of whom about one-third are Cayman Islanders. Since its formation in 1959, the union has negotiated a number of benefits for its members.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

REVENUE and expenditure for the past six financial years are given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Revenue £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>
1955-56	104,551	84,909
1956-57	116,267	109,508
1957-58	156,130	179,567
1958-59	190,686	184,056
1959-60*	202,287	200,670
1960**	160,469	153,680

* Revised estimates.

** Revised estimates for the period 1st April to 31st December.

The financial year was changed in 1960 to correspond with the calendar year.

PUBLIC DEBT

The following table shows the position of loans at 3rd December 1960:

<i>Designation and Amount of Loan</i>	<i>Balance Outstanding on 31st December 1960</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Public Works Loan, 1938 £6,500 3½%	Nil	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April 1940.
Cayman Islands 6½% Inter- Colonial loan, 1958 £80,000	£77,092	Sinking fund at the rate of £1,454 half yearly began on 1st June 1960.

The £80,000 Inter-Colonial Loan is the sum of two loans, one of £60,000 raised under the authority of the Road Construction (Inter-Colonial Loan) Law, 1957, Law 6 of 1957, and one of £20,000 raised by authority of the Owen Roberts Airfield (Inter-Colonial Loan) Law, 1958, Law 8 of 1958.

During 1952 a loan of £55,500 was raised by the Cayman Islands Corporation from the Colonial Development Corporation to finance airfield construction. At the end of 1960 the sum of £36,075 was outstanding. This loan is guaranteed by the Cayman Islands Government.

RESERVE FUNDS

The Reserve and Replacement Funds totalled £49,594 0s. 7d. at 31st March 1960. These were as follows:

	£	s.	d.
General Reserve Fund	41,389	3	4
Hurricane Fund	3,019	13	6
Public Buildings Replacement Fund	4,634	2	6
Boat Replacement Fund	551	1	3

The assets of the first two funds are invested in British, Dominion and Colonial securities, held by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations: all interest is re-invested. The assets of the last two funds are held in the islands on fixed deposit with Barclays Bank, D.C. & O.

TAXATION

Import duties and revenue from the sale of postage stamps continued as the principal sources of Government revenue. Income from these two items for the past six years was as follows:

Year	Import Duty £	Sale of Stamps £
1955-56	68,068	17,713
1956-57	85,120	11,181
1957-58	94,896	11,962
1958-59	117,487	24,596
1959-60	137,927	25,153
1960*	116,000	16,000

*Revised estimate for the period 1st April to 31st December.

Small taxes are levied on vehicles, bicycles, cattle, horses, dogs, firearms, boats, etc. Light dues are payable on shipping, while warehouse fees are collected from importers. There is no income tax, companies tax, estate or excise duty.

Customs Tariff

Under the Customs Tariff Law most articles imported into the islands are subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent., cost, insurance and freight being taken into consideration in arriving at the

value of dutiable articles. There is a preferential and a general tariff for some articles such as aerated waters, beer, butter, margarine, bicycles, cement, spirits, wines, tea and tobacco; duty under the preferential tariff is in the main at the rate of 15 or 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, and under the general tariff at the rate of 20 or 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. The following are examples of specific duties:

	<i>Preferential Tariff</i>	<i>General Tariff</i>
Beer, porter, etc.	4s. 6d.	6s. per gallon
Spirits	40s.	49s. per gallon
Cigarettes	19s.	20s. per 1,000
Leaf tobacco	8d.	9d. per pound
Wines	9s.	14s. per gallon

The above duties came into effect in 1958.

Certain items are admitted free of customs duty, e.g., items for the Armed Forces of the Crown, and for the Administrator, and books, artificial limbs, wire screening, mosquito netting, insecticides and spraying equipment, fertilisers, day-old chicks, feed for cattle, pigs and poultry, etc. The list of such items was revised and expanded during 1960.

Tonnage Tax

The Tonnage Tax Law, 1947, levies a tax computed on gross weight on all articles imported into the Cayman Islands for local use. The rates of duty vary from 3d. to 6d. a package on packages of not more than 100 lb. gross weight: on gasoline the tax is 1s. a drum of 45 Imperial gallons, or 30s. for each 100 gallons imported in bulk. On kerosene the tax is half that for gasoline. The bulk importation rate was brought into operation during 1960 after bulk storage tanks had been erected enabling the commodities concerned to be imported at a little over half the c.i.f. value of the corresponding importations in drums. The lower c.i.f. value meant lower customs receipts; however, the higher tonnage tax on bulk imports should enable Government revenue from petroleum to maintain its former level. Despite the new tax, a considerable saving is being passed on to the public; for example, an Imperial gallon of gasoline at the pump prior to the installation of bulk storage was 3s. 5d. Following bulk importations the price became 2s. 8d. On lumber the tax is 5s. for 1,000 superficial feet, on shingles 2s. for 1,000, on tiles, slates and similar roofing materials 15s. per 1,000 and on metals 2s. for each cwt. In a full year the tonnage tax (including the new bulk importation rates for kerosene and gasoline) is estimated to produce about £8,000.

Legislation is in force to attract pioneer industries and to encourage the erection and equipment of hotels by granting exemption, under certain conditions, from import duty and tonnage tax.

Stamp Duties

Under Law 9 of 1906, as amended in 1952, stamp duty ranging from 1*d.* to £4 4*s.* 0*d.* is payable on specified instruments and documents such as agreements, bills of exchange, conveyances, deeds, leases, mortgages and receipts for moneys paid. A further amendment to this Law was passed by the Legislative Assembly towards the end of 1960, the main provision of which was to impose a duty of up to 10 per cent. on the value of real estate transactions. This measure was found necessary, in the absence of annual taxation on property, to enable the Government to derive a reasonable revenue from the greatest single asset the islands possess, apart from their manpower.

Poll Tax

A personal tax applies to all males between the ages of 18 and 60 years. This was increased from 8*s.* annually to £1 at the beginning of 1959, and produces an annual revenue of about £3,000.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

BRITISH silver and copper coins and Jamaica coins are in circulation. Silver coins are legal tender up to 40*s.* and copper coins up to a value of 1*s.* Government of Jamaica notes of the denominations £5, £1, 10*s.* and 5*s.* are in circulation, and are legal tender for any amount. At the end of 1960 it was estimated that currency to a value of £139,486 was in circulation.

BANKING

A branch of Barclays Bank, D.C. & O. was opened in George Town in March 1953 and remains the only commercial bank in the islands. This bank has provided an invaluable service to the Government and to the commercial community.

The islands, in relation to their size, are a significant net dollar earner. The following figures give the annual totals of United States

and Canadian dollar earnings and expenditure over the past few years through the commercial bank:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Earning</i> \$	<i>Expenditure</i> \$	<i>Net Earnings</i> \$
1954 . .	480,157	328,012	152,145
1955 . .	746,073	572,990	173,083
1956 . .	1,170,463	569,660	600,803
1957 . .	1,391,136	1,004,461	386,675
1958 . .	1,271,094	1,032,099	238,995
1959 . .	1,586,974	975,882	611,092
1960 . .	2,028,022	1,060,118	967,904

The Government provides savings facilities in the shape of the Government Savings Bank, which conducts business in George Town, Grand Cayman, and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The Bank was established in 1908, the Cayman Brac branch being opened in 1934. On 31st December 1960 there were 2,799 open accounts, the amount then standing to the credit of depositors being £164,812. This compares with 856 accounts totalling £29,739 in 1942, and 1,660 accounts totalling £129,409 in 1951. The greater part of the funds is invested with the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations, but a proportion is held on short-term fixed deposit at the local branch of Barclays Bank, D.C. & O. to meet sudden calls by depositors.

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE wages of seamen employed in tankers and bulk cargo ships continued as the dominant factor in the islands' prosperity. The tourist industry and the traditional industries of thatch rope manufacture and turtle and shark fishing played a less significant part. Sales of land to Americans, Canadians and British people, purchased either as speculations or for use as winter homes or hotel sites, have brought substantial sums to landowners in recent years. In some cases, for example desirable beach land, today's prices are as much as a hundred or more times greater than during the immediate post-war period fifteen years ago.

The values of imports and exports for the past six years were as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Imports</i> £	<i>Exports</i> £
1955	330,175	66,235
1956	450,610	60,710
1957	472,434	33,838
1958	530,000	36,526
1959	901,528	39,596
1960	750,000	31,807

The value and quantity of the principal imports were as follows:

Commodity	Unit	1959		1960	
		Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £
Flour . . .	barrel	3,811	16,669	3,875	16,838
Cornmeal . . .	barrel	420	1,827	548	2,388
Rice . . .	cwt.	615	3,075	963	4,815
Sugar . . .	ton	470	19,740	380	16,264
Textiles . . .	—	—	24,000	—	25,000
Kerosene . . .	gal.	70,356	5,920	130,460	11,271
Petrol . . .	gal.	308,924	29,390	572,088	54,271

The principal exports were as follows:

Commodity	Unit	1959		1960	
		Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £
Turtles . . .	no.	3,122	15,397	2,098	11,175
Turtle Skin . . .	lb.	13,934	10,095	7,220	5,082
Rope . . .	1,000 fathoms	1,147	10,652	911	9,143
Turtle Shell . . .	lb.	3,535	2,144	5,064	2,861
Shark Skin . . .	no.	485	356	1,000	1,250
Turtle Meat . . .	lb.	—	—	8,825	1,236
Conch Meat . . .	lb.	5,900	368	12,000	756

Approximately two-thirds of the trade of the islands is with the United States, and most imports come from this source. Sugar, coffee, cement, liquor, petrol, kerosene and condensed milk are imported almost exclusively from Jamaica. A bulk fuel installation was opened on Grand Cayman for the first time in 1960. A second installation, owned by a rival oil company, was almost completed by the end of 1960.

There are no re-exports from the islands.

Chapter 6: Production

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

It is impossible even to estimate the area of cultivable land in the islands: no cadastral survey has ever been undertaken, and in the past decade considerable areas which were once profitably cultivated have become overgrown and derelict. The islands are capable of producing a wide range of tropical fruits and vegetables, sometimes of exceptional quality (as in the case of citrus); but agriculture is handicapped by the fact that the Caymanian looks to the sea and not to the land as a means of earning a livelihood. As seafaring is so much more remunerative than agriculture, progressively more land goes out of cultivation because there is no labour to work it;

as a consequence the islands have become almost wholly dependent on imported foodstuffs.

The best agricultural land is on the top of the Bluff in Cayman Brac, and at the eastern end of Grand Cayman, but nearly everywhere in the islands there are outcrops of decaying coral limestone, and it is doubtful if there is an acre of land, except on the eastern part of Cayman Brac Bluff, at present inaccessible except on foot, which could be ploughed without fatal results to the plough. Pockets of loam are found amongst the older limestones and these are of great fertility. In Grand Cayman there is a large area of swamp, which is never entered. Since the swamps are at sea level (indeed, they are affected by the levels of the tides), draining them is impossible. There is no handy high ground which could be used for filling them easily. Swamp reclamation, therefore, though feasible, would be extremely costly, and an investor would want to be assured of his returns before entering into any large-scale reclamation project. However, plans are being drawn up by persons interested in hotel and residential development in Grand Cayman for large-scale reclamation works which may, if implemented, completely transform large areas of the island.

All land is individually owned and there is no legislation on land usage and tenure. There is no proper system of land registration, a fact which gives rise to some litigation, but this is adequately handled by the Courts. There has been a great deal of speculation in land during the past ten years, and land values have risen considerably. Beach land is at a premium, and all land suitable for building has greatly increased in price. The general trend is for more and more land to pass into fewer hands, in some cases into the hands of absentee proprietors: in the absence of land taxes and of legislation in regard to land usage a good deal of land on valuable sites goes to waste, and development is hampered accordingly.

During 1960 a Law came into operation making the registration of all land transactions compulsory. At the same time the opportunity was taken to encourage owners to register title, the effect of such registration being that unchallenged registration for five years will give good title.

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Although high quality vegetables may be grown on the islands, little interest is displayed in their production locally, with the result that imported fresh vegetables command a ready sale at very high prices. In an attempt to reduce the cost of imported vegetables and ground provisions, a small revolving fund was established during 1960 from

which low-interest short-term loans are made to farmers anxious to farm on a modest scale. Loans are approved by a small committee. It is expected that when the heavy equipment that the Government will purchase as one of the development items is available, it will be possible for areas of land to be broken sufficiently for cultivation by small power tools.

Livestock

The number of livestock, according to the 1943 census, was as follows:

	Number
Horses	79
Donkeys	101
Cattle	1,858
Goats	118
Poultry	11,135
Pigs	397

These figures probably represent an underestimate because horses and cattle are subject to a small tax and would be under-declared by owners. Donkeys are a popular and cheap form of transport in country districts. The common pasturage is guinea grass, which grows abundantly; in Cayman Brac considerable damage has been done to pastures by the introduction, presumably by way of seed in straw material used for packing, of an inferior grass, unacceptable to cattle. There appears to be no prospect of its eradication.

All livestock slaughtered is for local consumption; the demand for meat is far in excess of the supply.

FORESTRY

The principal forest products are mahogany and the thatch palm (*Thrinax Argentea*). The latter provides the raw material for the thatch rope industry, the islands' principal peasant industry. Mahogany is chiefly used, in the shape of natural "bends" in the boat building industry, but is now seldom obtainable for decking or house building.

There is no apparent need for any active forest policy for the islands, and none is in effect.

FISHERIES

The treaty with Nicaragua, under which Cayman Islands turtle fishermen had for many years caught turtles in Nicaraguan waters off the Misquito Cays, expired during the period. Under a new Nicaraguan Law, it will be necessary for a licence to be obtained, and negotiations proceeded during 1959 and 1960 for the grant of

a 20-year licence. During the interim, a temporary licence was granted to enable fishing for turtles and shark to continue.

Deep-sea fishing for turtle (and to a lesser extent shark) is the main local industry. It is run by the owners of the few remaining schooners; the catch is taken on the banks, shoals and cays off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua. Turtle fishing is a skilled pursuit traditional to Caymanians, and one in which they are expert. After capture green turtle are "crawled" in Grand Cayman and then exported alive to the United States by way of Key West and Tampa. The demand for live turtle in 1959 and 1960 exceeded the supply. Hawksbill turtle are captured for tortoiseshell, for which the market is moribund. It is likely to remain so; competition from plastics has already made hawksbill fishing wholly unremunerative as an independent pursuit, and the restricted supplies of shell which come on the market derive from the few hawksbill turtle caught in the process of fishing for green turtle. Shark skin and other shark products find a ready market in the United States.

In turtle fishing, the ship's company operates on the share principle. The owner of the vessel supplies the material for making nets, buoys, etc. and stores, while the crew provide their labour. From the gross proceeds of the catch a sum is paid to the Nicaraguan Government as royalty and the balance is divided between the crew and the owner. The crew pay for the stores supplied by the owner.

Coastwise fishing is undertaken by self-employed fishermen working in pairs, and their catch, which includes lobster, has a ready local sale. Demand for fresh fish exceeds the supply, and both canned fish and dried salt fish are imported extensively. In a report on the Fisheries of the Cayman Islands, written in 1945, Dr. E. F. Thompson stated:

"A very small amount for export could be taken locally, but there is a far greater potential supply. The Cayman Islands are fitted by geographical position and seafaring tradition to exploit the fisheries' resources of the Rosaline Bank, Mosquito Cays, Seranna and Seranilla Banks and the mass of small cays and islands in this region. From both theoretical reasoning and exhaustive information from practical fishermen, it seems certain that these areas represent the chief potential source of fish within reach of Jamaica. At present these resources are not fished at all or only to a very limited extent. Fish from this source could be a partial solution to Jamaica's need for reducing her dependence on northern salt fish."

Up to the present no real attempt has been made to explore the fisheries resources of these banks, and it is impossible to say which is the correct one of the two contrary views—that the Caribbean is teeming with fish waiting for intelligent exploitation, or that the Caribbean is, from the point of view of commercial fishing, a marine desert. It is unlikely that anything can be done to build up a fishing industry until a research vessel has, by practical operation, shown

whether fish exist in commercial quantity and, if so, whether they could be economically marketed. This would involve heavy capital expenditure and there is no immediate prospect of such research.

All three islands, particularly the Lesser Islands, offer excellent sport for the game fisherman, during the winter months in particular, and suitable vessels for this purpose are now becoming more numerous.

MINING

There is no mining in the Cayman Islands. In the late nineteenth century phosphate deposits were worked both in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, but these were of poor quality, and the discovery of phosphate beds in Florida finally killed this enterprise.

Early in 1960 an oil exploration licence covering the whole of Grand Cayman and the surrounding sea as far as the 10-fathom contour was granted to a local merchant. The equipment and finance are to be provided by the merchant's associates in the United States. The equipment had not arrived by the end of 1960, and no work had been undertaken. The licence will expire early in 1962.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The manufacture of thatch rope is a cottage industry on which many of the poorer people depend for a living. Apart from a certain amount used locally by fishermen and others, the entire output is taken by the Jamaica fishing industry. The rope, which is highly resistant to salt water, is sold to local traders, who in turn sell it to the Government. It is then shipped in bulk to Jamaica, where it is distributed by the Jamaica Co-operative Union. During 1960 an increase of price to the producers of 33½ per cent. was negotiated. The price is now £1 for one hundred fathoms. An American winter resident, who has interested himself in this industry, made a gift of small pieces of hand-operated machinery, designed by himself, which were tested with the object of simplifying and speeding up one of the important stages in rope manufacture.

The only other manufacturing industries in the islands are two concrete block-making concerns, a small modern bakery and a small tile-making concern, located in George Town.

The Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) Law, 1950, and the Hotels Aid Law, grant relief from customs duty and tonnage tax to persons establishing factories or erecting hotels, for a wide range of articles such as building materials and equipment.

The boat-building industry, for which the islands were once famous, has practically died out: only a few small craft for local use were built in 1959 and 1960.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The West Bay Co-operative Association continued to function with moderate success. Credit Union Study Groups were established during 1960 in George Town and West Bay, which will come into full operation when the appropriate legislation has been passed.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST INDUSTRY

The islands rely for their attractions on their bathing beaches, the incomparably clear water and weather. There are no golf courses, race courses and other similar attractions. Those who enjoy a simple holiday of the kind offered by the Cayman Islands return again and again. There are fewer than 300 beds in hotels and residential clubs available for visitors at the present time, but it is expected that this number will rapidly increase if a number of hotels, now at the planning stage, are built. Hotel accommodation at present available, with prices, is given below:

<i>Name of Hotel</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Winter Rates (per day)</i>	<i>Summer Rates (per day)</i>
Galleon Beach Hotel	Winter only	£8 15s. 0d. (single) to £10 10s. 0d. (single) £12 12s. 0d. (double) to £15 15s. 0d. (double)	— — — —
Coral Caymanian Hotel	Year round	£7 0s. 0d. (single) to £8 15s. 0d. (single) £12 5s. 0d. (double) to £14 0s. 0d. (double)	£5 5s. 0d. (single) £8 15s. 0d. (double) — —
Pageant Beach Hotel	Year round	£5 5s. 0d. (single) £8 15s. 0d. (double) to £11 7s. 6d. (double)	£3 10s. 0d. (single) to £4 18s. 0d. (single) £5 1s. 6d. (double) to £7 17s. 6d. (double)
Bay View Hotel	Year round	£3 10s. 0d. (single) to £4 7s. 6d. (single) £6 2s. 6d. (double) to £11 7s. 6d. (double)	£2 9s. 0d. (single) to £3 10s. 0d. (single) £4 18s. 0d. (double) to £5 12s. 0d. (double)
Sea View Lodge Hotel	Year round	£5 5s. 0d. (single) £7 3s. 0d. (double) to £8 15s. 0d. (double)	£2 3s. 0d. (single) to £3 0s. 0d. (single) £4 4s. 0d. (double) to £5 7s. 0d. (double)
Beach Club and Colony	Year round	£7 3s. 0d. (single) to £8 15s. 0d. (single) £10 10s. 0d. (double) to £12 8s. 0d. (double)	£4 7s. 6d. (single) £7 3s. 0d. (double) — —
Rum Point Club	Winter only	£3 10s. 0d. (single) £7 0s. 0d. (double)	— —
West Indian Club	Year round	£12 5s. 0d. (For a full apartment per day)	£12 5s. 0d.
Buccaneer's Inn (Cayman Brac)	Year round	£4 18s. 0d. (single) to £7 15s. 6d. (single) £7 0s. 0d. (double) to £7 17s. 0d. (double)	£2 16s. 0d. (single) to £3 3s. 0d. (single) £4 11s. 0d. (double) to £4 18s. 0d. (double)

There are also a few boarding houses and a number of cottages available for rent.

Little Cayman, hitherto seldom visited by tourists, began to be developed during 1960, when a group of Americans acquired beach land and began the construction of accommodation for fishermen. The amenities provided include separate cottages, communal club and dining space and fishing boats.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

PRIMARY education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and fourteen. There are no Government nursery or kindergarten schools. Where staffing and accommodation allow, pupils of six years of age are admitted to the primary schools. Reading books and writing materials are supplied at cost except in the case of pupils whose parents are unable to afford them, when they are provided free of charge.

Control is exercised by a Board of Education constituted under law. The Administrator is the chairman. Included in the membership is a teacher nominated by the Cayman Islands Teachers' Association. The Board is responsible for the formulation of educational policy.

During 1959 and 1960 ten Government primary schools were in operation, seven in Grand Cayman and the remainder in Cayman Brac. During April 1960 two centres were established, one each in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, at which pupils are prepared for the Second and Third Year Jamaica Local Examinations. Transport to and from the centres is subsidised by the Government, but pupils over the age of fourteen are required to pay a fee of £1 a term.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church operates a small private primary school at East End.

During 1959, 950 children were enrolled at all Government primary schools, the average attendance being 722 or 76 per cent. During 1960 the figures were 987 and 803 or 81.3 per cent.

The Cayman High School, at which pupils are prepared for the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, and which includes a preparatory department, is a private school operating under the

auspices of the Scottish Presbyterian Church. It is subsidised by a Government grant-in-aid of £1,800 annually, and a number of scholarships to the School are awarded to deserving children from the Government primary schools. The Government has also undertaken to meet the cost of a newly-established commercial subjects department.

The Triple C School, operated by the Church of God, provides a secondary education on American lines, but does not prepare candidates for external examinations. This school also has a preparatory department.

At the end of 1960, 33 teachers were employed in the Government schools, 27 of whom were women and six men; 17 held teaching certificates. During 1959 two students completed teacher-training courses at Shortwood College, Jamaica, and in the following year two assistant teachers attended a 20-week course at the Caledonia Junior College, Jamaica.

Two holders of Government scholarships, one in dentistry and one in law, qualified during 1960 and returned to the islands to take up appointments as Government Dental Officer and Clerk of the Court respectively.

During the financial year 1959-60 total Government recurrent expenditure on Education amounted to £18,109, or 9 per cent. of the expenditure budget. Considerable capital expenditure was incurred, mainly on a new school building in George Town, officially opened during 1960, and on a small school annex at East End. The revised figures of expenditure for the 9-month period April-December 1960 reveal that expenditure on education had risen to £20,903 or 13.6 per cent. of the total budget.

PUBLIC HEALTH

At the end of 1960, for the first time, the medical and health services of the islands were fully staffed. Full-time appointments were one medical officer, one dental officer, one health officer, one matron, seven nurses, one hospital secretary, one X-ray and laboratory technician, one dispenser, one clerk, one dental nurse and one dental technician. With the exception of a district nurse at Cayman Brac, all staff are resident in Grand Cayman. A district surgeon, subsidised by the Government, practices privately in Grand Cayman, and is available to assist and relieve the Government medical officer. The islanders lost the services of Dr. W. A. Hortor, who died late in 1960, after more than 25 years of service in the islands. He began his career in the islands as Government Medical Officer and practised privately on retirement.

A regular air service between Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman enables urgent cases to be transported to the well-equipped hospital at Grand Cayman.

The services available at the Government Hospital were further improved by the inauguration of a pre-natal clinic and a blood-donor panel. The latter service provides whole blood in cases of extreme emergency. Less urgent cases continue to be provided with whole blood by the Ministry of Health, Jamaica. Towards the end of 1960 a new dental clinic and a new six-bed hospital isolation block were nearing completion. These buildings, with their equipment, were financed by local funds and Colonial Development and Welfare funds, supplemented by public contributions.

In general, the health of the inhabitants remained satisfactory. The figures of live births during 1959 and 1960 were 272 and 264 respectively, while deaths during the same years numbered 50 and 54. During this two-year period the greater number of deaths fell in the age groups 70-90 years and 0-10 years. Principal causes of death were cardio-vascular disease, pneumonia and cancer. The main causes of morbidity were neurosis, respiratory tract infections, gynaecological disorders, hypertension, parasitic infestation, vitamin deficiency and bronchial asthma.

There were 655 admissions to the hospital during 1959, and 619 during 1960. Out-patients numbered approximately 8,000 in 1959 and 8,400 in 1960. During 1959 there were 60 major and 103 minor operations, compared with 69 and 87 respectively in 1960. Only a few cases of "childhood" diseases were seen, and there were no outbreaks of the more serious infectious and contagious diseases such as typhoid fever, poliomyelitis, etc., although a few cases of nephritis were reported from Cayman Brac during 1959.

The return of the health officer in 1959 from a course of training at the Public Health School in Jamaica marked the beginning of more adequate sanitation and mosquito control. An incinerator has been built in the grounds of the Government Hospital, while a regular garbage disposal service has been instituted in George Town. Plans were formulated for a more intensive campaign against mosquitoes, and equipment, etc., for the purpose ordered.

At the request of the Government, Mr. Henry Shaw, Surgeon Specialist employed by the Ministry of Health, Jamaica, visited the islands during 1960. He held three clinics and performed a number of operations. It is hoped that this visit will prove to be the forerunner of others by specialists in various fields of medicine.

The Government and people of the Cayman Islands continued to rely heavily on the assistance and advice readily provided by the

Ministry of Health, Jamaica, and the University College Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica.

HOUSING

The average standard of housing in the Cayman Islands is high. Although wooden buildings predominate, almost all new construction is in concrete. There are no communal water supply or sanitation systems. The roofs of the more substantial houses are used as water catchments, the rain water being collected in concrete cisterns. This is used for drinking and washing. Where water-borne sanitation is installed, the water supply is usually from wells in order to conserve the rain water. Some of the poorer houses are thatched with palm leaves and do not have water-borne sanitation.

A striking feature of the islands, particularly in the Grand Cayman, is the number of partly-built concrete houses, many of which appear to have been abandoned. These are, in fact, the visible evidence of the seamen's savings. Between voyages the seamen frequently build as much as they can afford, returning to continue and eventually complete modern homes. It may take as long as four or five years to complete the buildings in this fashion.

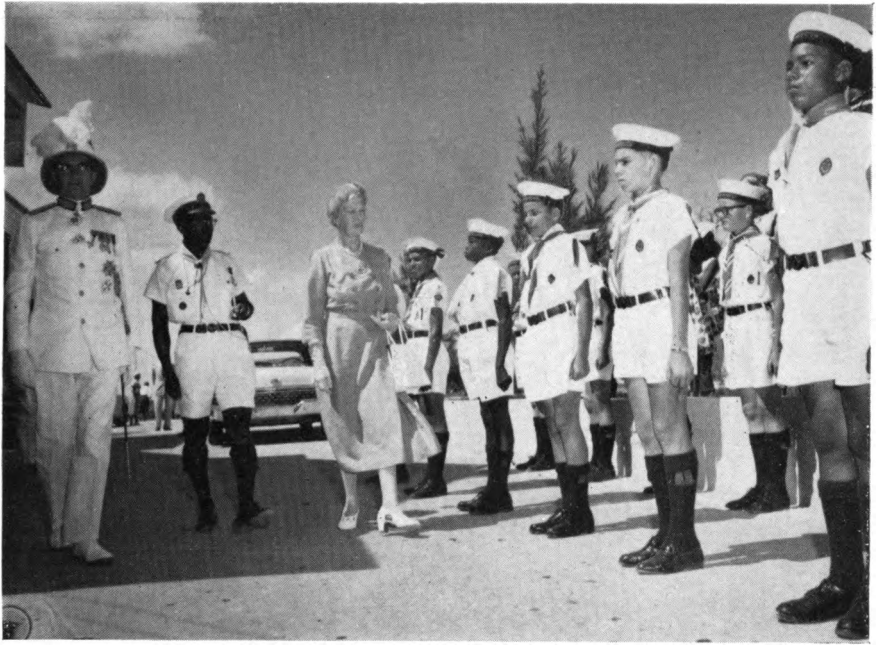
Attractive hotels and apartment houses were built during the period, and numerous plans made to build further hotels on the coast to attract a larger influx of visitors. A few winter residents have built substantial and attractive houses which are occupied on an average of about four months during the year.

Land prices have risen steeply during recent years, particularly on the coast. The resulting tendency has been for the purchase of smaller building plots.

There are no building societies. There are no rates or taxes on land or house property.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Government funds for relief of the poor are controlled by the Administrator's office, advice being sought in new cases from the voluntary Cayman Welfare Association and local Justices of the Peace. The recipients of poor relief are usually the aged and infirm, but occasionally families abandoned by sea-going husbands and fathers require help. For the first time a small number of deaf and dumb children were sent to a special school in Jamaica, and it is hoped that the excellent results will encourage the parents of other similarly afflicted children, to allow them to receive training. The cost is met partly from Government funds and partly from public subscriptions.



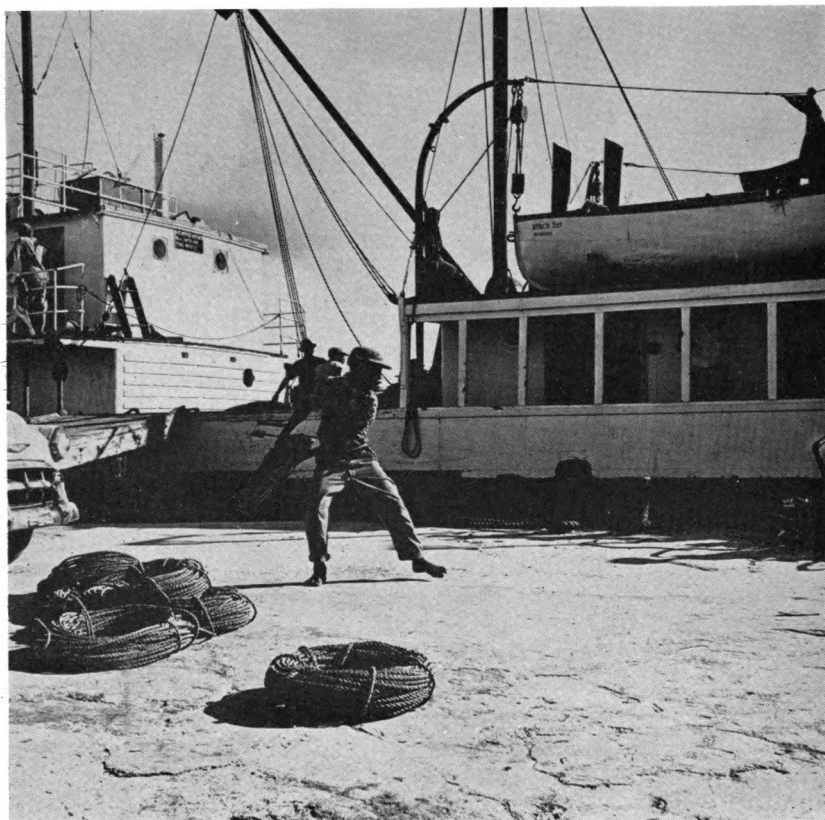
Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal inspects a Guard of Honour of Sea Scouts at George Town on the 22nd March, 1960

(Gleaner Photograph)



The Administrator presents the Members of the Executive Council to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal—22nd March, 1960

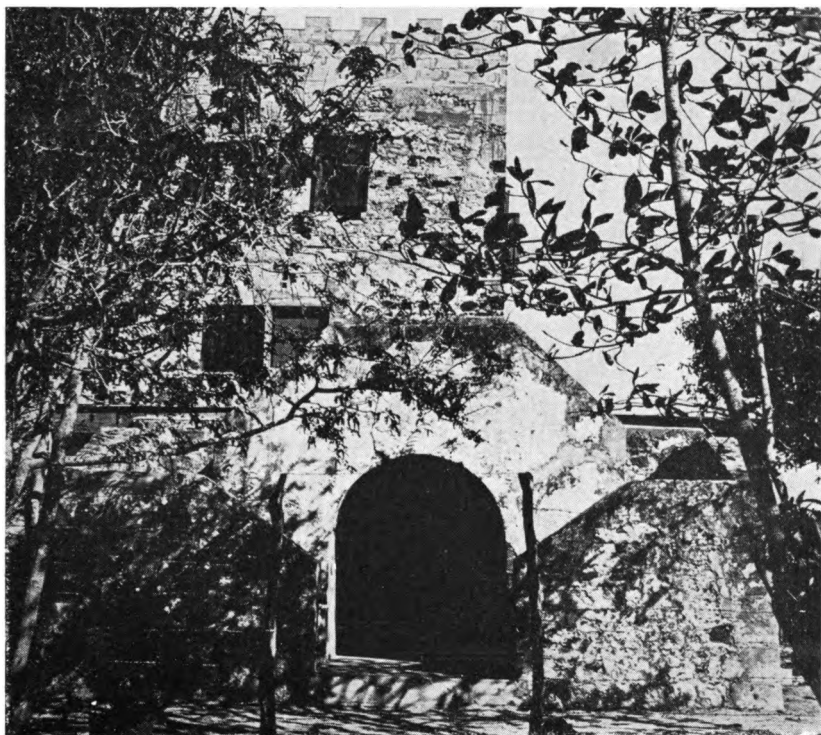
(Gleaner Photograph)



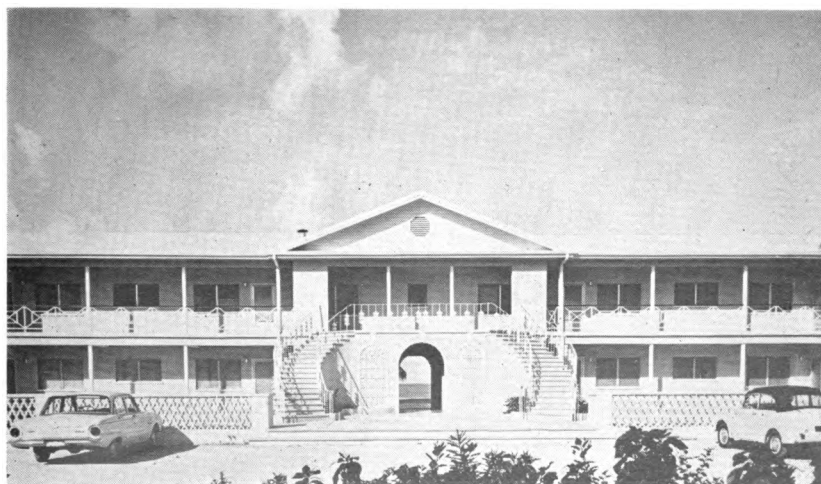
Loading Thatch Rope for Jamaica



*Opening of the Legislature, Cayman Islands—4th October, 1959
Honourable T. W. Farrington presenting the Honourable William Seivright with a
plaque of the Cayman Islands Coat of Arms.*



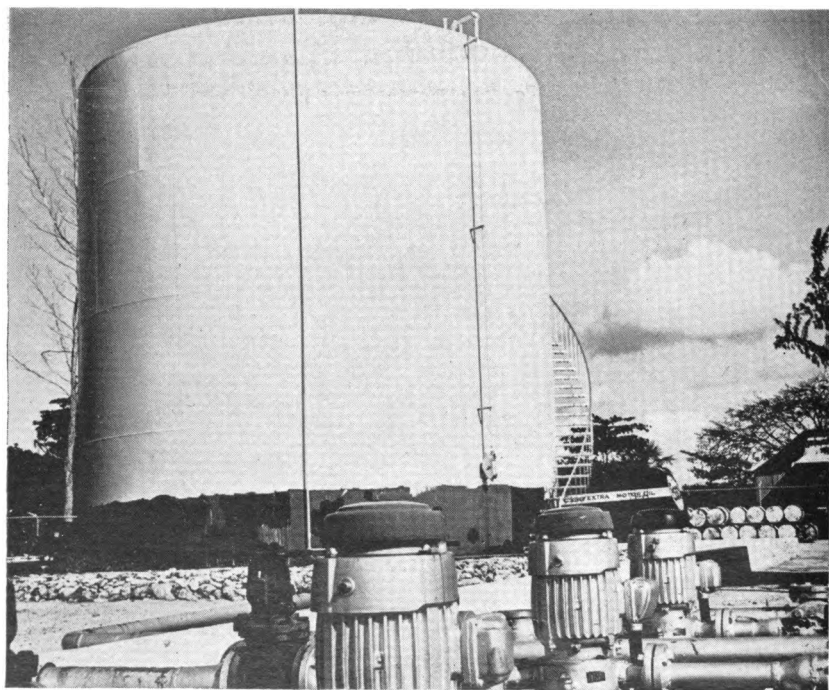
St. James Castle, Pedro



West India Club. Co-operative Apartment Building completed in 1960



The New George Town Elementary School



Bulk Fuel Tanks, George Town, installed during 1960

The Cayman Welfare Association continued to do excellent work in co-ordinating charitable efforts and in obtaining supplies of materials to assist the poor in repairing their homes. A number of local merchants assisted by providing materials at cost or in some cases free of charge.

A well-stocked public library in George Town is maintained by Government funds, assisted to a small extent by subscriptions and fines. A voluntary library committee supervises its activities and the acquisition of new volumes.

The Girls' Guildry movement, the Cayman Islands Boy Scouts' Association and Wolf Cub Pack have continued to do good work among the younger people. Other local community associations have also flourished.

A notable recent feature has been the development of enthusiasm for organised sports and inter-district and inter-club friendly rivalry. Association football, cricket, volley ball, table tennis and athletics are among the activities that are becoming increasingly popular, relatively large crowds being drawn to watch the competitions. These activities have been helped by the levelling of the playing field at West Bay and the establishment of a playing field in George Town in the grounds of the new Government School.

Chapter 8: Legislation

LEGISLATION enacted during 1959 and 1960 was as follows:

1959

Law 1 of 1959. *The Cayman Islands Police Force (Amendment) Law, 1958.*

Law 2 of 1959. *The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Law, 1958*, allows women to exercise the right to vote.

Law 3 of 1959. *The Appropriation Law, 1959.*

1960

Law 1 of 1960. *The Government Financial Year Law, 1959*, makes the Government financial year end on 31st December in each year instead of on 31st March, as in previous years.

Law 2 of 1960. *The Cayman Islands Corporation (Amendment) Law, 1959*, firstly empowers the chairman of the Corporation to employ and discharge employees without waiting for a meeting of the Corporation, but subject to ratification, and secondly empowers the Corporation with the approval of the Government to make by-laws for the regulation of any undertakings.

- Law 3 of 1960. *The Airports Regulation Law, 1959*, confers power to make regulations to control the movement of persons, animals and traffic, buying and selling and the general management of the airports in the Cayman Islands.
- Law 4 of 1960. *The Explosives (Amendment) Law, 1960*, empowers the Chief of Police to give permits for the purchase of dynamite for making cisterns, etc.. permits hitherto having been obtained from the Administrator.
- Law 5 of 1960. *The Hotels Aid (Amendment) Law, 1960*, extends the life of the Hotels Aid Law, 1955, for a further period of five years with effect from 1st January 1960.
- Law 6 of 1960. *The Tax Collection and Internal Revenue (Amendment) Law, 1960*, makes provision for the collection of outstanding duties and arrears.
- Law 7 of 1960. *The Sunday Trading Law, 1960*, restricts trading on Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day, and for purposes incidental thereto.
- Law 8 of 1960. *The Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) (Amendment) Law, 1960*, extends the life of the Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) Law, 1950, for a further period of five years with effect from 1st January 1958.
- Law 9 of 1960. *The Coroner's (Amendment) Law, 1959*, makes provision for women to serve on Coroner's Juries.
- Law 10 of 1960. *The Appropriation Law, 1960*.
- Law 11 of 1960. *The Cruelty to Animals (Prevention) Law, 1960*, provides for the prevention of cruelty to animals and provides for the punishment of persons found guilty of causing unnecessary pain or suffering to animals.
- Law 12 of 1960. *The Allowance to Jurors (Amendment) Law, 1960*, increases the rate of allowance to jurors from 1s. 6d. a day to 10s. a day.
- Law 13 of 1960. *The Customs Consolidation (Amendment) Law, 1960*, is designed to encourage the importation of goods by air by ensuring that the additional cost of air freight should not be taken into account in assessing customs duty. In other words, the purpose of the law is to avoid passing on to the public an additional element of the cost of goods, imported by air for the convenience of the public. Essentially it is a small attempt at reducing the cost of living.
- Law 14 of 1960. *The Tariff (Amendment) Law, 1960*, adds new items to the present Tariff Law and bring it up to date.
- Law 15 of 1960. *The Tonnage Tax (Amendment) Law, 1960*, is designed to maintain Government revenues relating to petroleum importations, while enabling a low price to be charged to consumers.
- Law 16 of 1960. *The Land Registration (Amendment) Law, 1960*, regulates the position under which the Public Recorder has been registering land without any legal authority to do so. It is merely a restatement of the existing law with the needed provision inserted, and is drafted in this form so that practitioners and others may be able to obtain a copy if they wish. The Law also provides for the registration of all land transactions and for the appointment of a Registrar of Lands.
- Law 17 of 1960. *The Public Recorder Law, 1960*, which when read with the Jamaica Financial Administration and Audit Law, provides the legislation necessary to inaugurate a system of audit of accounts of the Cayman Islands Government.
- Law 18 of 1960. *The Audit Law, 1960*, enables a system of audit of the accounts of the Cayman Islands Government to be inaugurated.
- Law 19 of 1960. *The Revised Edition (Laws of the Cayman Islands) Law, 1960*, authorises the revision of the islands' Laws, bringing them up to date.
- Government Warehouse (Amendment) Regulations, 1960*, are designed to authorise the landing of bulk petroleum at any bulk storage as may be approved by the Administrator.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

At the end of 1956 legislation had been enacted both by the Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands and by the Legislature of Jamaica, of which the Cayman Islands was then a Dependency, to provide for reform of the administration of justice in the Cayman Islands by the setting up of a resident Magistrate's Court. A Stipendiary Magistrate was appointed in April 1957, and has taken over the greater part of the summary work of the Petty Courts and the Petty Sessions Courts. In the absence of appointment of a Judge of the Cayman Islands, the Magistrate has jurisdiction as Judge of the Grand Court except in cases of capital felony.

Until the end of 1960 a Stipendiary Magistrate was appointed on secondment from Jamaica. At the end of 1960, however, the services of a retired magistrate of wide experience in the Far East and East Africa were obtained.

The Stipendiary Magistrate has his headquarters in George Town, but also holds courts in the Lesser Islands periodically. The courts of the Cayman Islands are the Grand Court, the Quarterly Petty Court and the Petty Sessions Court.

The Grand Court is constituted by Act 3 of 1889, Sections 5 to 8 (Cayman Islands) and Cap. 421 of the Laws of Jamaica 1953 Revised Edition. It sits twice a year in June and December, and has jurisdiction as follows:

- (a) In civil matters where the amount claimed in contract or tort exceeds £10, divorce, admiralty, bankruptcy, equity, and probate and administration.
- (b) In all felonies and indictable misdemeanours and in certain other cases where under the law creating the offence jurisdiction is given to a Resident Magistrate in Jamaica; in the latter type of case the Judge presides without a jury.
- (c) This court is also the court of appeal from decisions of the Petty Courts, Petty Sessions Court and Liquor Licensing Board.

The Quarterly Petty Court presided over by the Stipendiary Magistrate has jurisdiction to hear and determine all actions arising from contract or tort or from both, and trespass to lands when the debt or damages claimed do not exceed the sum of £10, and in

which no question of the title to real estate is involved. This court has power, moreover, to try all cases in which disputes have arisen relative to the boundaries of lands where it is necessary to have a view.

The Petty Sessions Court presided over by the Stipendiary Magistrate sits regularly on Friday of each week, but the Stipendiary Magistrate sits occasionally during the week to dispose of any outstanding matters. In this court the Stipendiary Magistrate deals with all summary trials. This court also conducts preliminary examinations into indictable offences. The examinations are conducted before two Justices of the Peace.

Appeals from the Grand Court are sent to the Federal Supreme Court of The West Indies in both criminal and civil matters.

The number of persons dealt with by the Courts are shown in Appendices I and II, pages 45 and 46.

POLICE

During 1959 and 1960 there was no noticeable increase in serious crime, which remained at a low level. The most serious cases were those against the person and thefts. In 1959 there was a considerable increase over previous years in the number of persons arrested or summoned to court—principally for disorderly conduct, offences against the person, and offences against the Traffic Laws.

In 1959 two women constables were recruited, an innovation for the Cayman Islands. After undergoing a course of training at the Jamaica Constabulary Force Training School at Port Royal, Kingston, they have proved most valuable, particularly in relation to cases involving women and girls and in school traffic control.

The purchase of a Land Rover for police patrol work during 1959 led to a great increase in the number of traffic offences tried by the Courts. Partly, too, this increase came about as the result of the new tarmac road construction, which has proved a great temptation to exceed the speed limit. The limit is 35 m.p.h. throughout Grand Cayman, with limits of 20 m.p.h. in the towns. A high accident rate, caused mainly by over-fast driving, is proof enough that the limits are sufficiently high and should be rigidly enforced.

During the period under review, the Police assumed responsibility for Immigration duties. These were formerly carried out by the Assistant Administrator.

The Force remained under strength throughout 1959 and 1960. It is hoped that the new Police Station that is planned as one of the development works referred to elsewhere in this Report will stimulate recruitment. The Chief of Police is a retired Colonial Police

Officer re-employed on contract, but all other ranks are Cayman Islanders with the exception of one non-commissioned officer on secondment from Jamaica.

During 1960 497 vehicles were inspected by the Police before licences were issued.

PRISONS

There is a small gaol at George Town—a concrete building with six cells opening on to a small courtyard. It is used for prisoners with short sentences and for those sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a term of six months or upwards who are awaiting transfer to the General Penitentiary in Jamaica. There is no permanent prison staff, as the gaol is more often than not empty. The Police perform warder duties as and when required, and temporary female staff are employed on the rare occasions when a female is imprisoned.

The population seldom rose above three during 1959 and 1960.

A new prison is one of the proposed development projects.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

PUBLIC UTILITIES

THERE are at present two public utilities in the Cayman Islands: Cayman Island Public Service Limited, which at present supplies electricity to George Town and West Bay in Grand Cayman, and the Cayman Brac Light and Power Company Limited which performs a similar service for the islanders of Cayman Brac. The Cayman Island Public Service Limited has suffered throughout its career from initial shortage of capital; this led inevitably to the use of second-hand equipment with consequential heavy maintenance and running costs. Expansion has been slower than was expected, and the company has not up to the present shown an operating profit in any year since its formation. An additional charge of 33½ per cent. to consumers above the normal rate was levied, with Government approval, early in 1960, on the understanding that this would be progressively reduced as circumstances permitted. As a result a smaller loss than usual was revealed in the 1960 accounts, which would have been turned into a profit had it not been for a series of expensive machinery failures during the year. There is a

faint prospect that the company's affairs will improve, but it appears inevitable that a large proportion of the accumulated debt will have to be written off at the expense of shareholders. The Cayman Brac enterprise, on the other hand, began its life with new equipment, and in its first ten months of operation during 1960 a rapid build up in consumption was accompanied by a trouble-free continuous supply of electricity.

The capital for the Cayman Brac Company was raised partly from local sources, partly from American investors with an interest in the island's welfare and by a loan of £10,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department is headed by a Superintendent of Works, and staffed by a clerk and a varying number of daily-paid artisans and general workers. The artisans include men who would be accounted thoroughly skilled in any part of the world, mechanics, a heavy equipment operator, carpenters and builders. The Department is concerned mainly with maintenance of roads, public buildings, lighthouses, Government vehicles and an extremely primitive and unreliable telephone system. Attempts were made during the second half of 1960 to obtain the services of an engineer to supervise development projects that have been planned over the next few years, but so far without success.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

GEORGE TOWN is a port of registry with 27 vessels totalling 9,872 gross tons on the register. The islands are not served regularly by any steamship line, but sea communications are maintained by a number of locally-owned vessels including the M.V. *Merco*, owned by the Merren Shipping Company of Grand Cayman, the M.V. *Bodmer*, owned by the Bodmer Shipping Company, also of Grand Cayman, and the M.V.s *Kirkco* and *Kirktrader*, owned by the Kirkconnell Company of Cayman Brac; all make calls at Grand Cayman and less frequently at the Lesser Islands. Goods are imported mainly from Tampa and to a lesser extent Miami in Florida, and from Kingston, Jamaica. Most of these vessels, which

carry a few passengers in addition to cargo, are of a few hundred tons registered weight. Smaller vessels are engaged in the turtle fishing industry, and frequent calls are made by small vessels from Cuba and Honduras bringing fruit, ground provisions and timber. There are on occasions delays owing to the accumulation of goods at Kingston or Tampa, but one of the worst bottlenecks in the flow of goods into Grand Cayman is the poor wharf accommodation at George Town, where only one sizeable vessel may be berthed at a time. It is no uncommon sight to see one vessel tied up with two or even three awaiting their turn to unload. This can be particularly frustrating at Christmas time, for example, when eagerly awaited goods remain for several days in the holds of vessels lying off the harbour. To do them full credit, there is a great deal of co-operation between the ship owners and the Customs authorities, who do their best to see that perishables take priority.

It is proposed to improve the wharf and warehouse facilities, both of which are now hopelessly inadequate, as a development project in the near future.

ROADS AND VEHICLES

Of the 65 miles of motorable roads, 44 are in Grand Cayman and 21 in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served by footpaths only. In Grand Cayman the principal road approximately 30 miles in length, closely follows the line of the coast from Boatswain Bay to the north-west, through West Bay, George Town and Bodden Town, to East End on the south-east coast. This connects all the larger settlements with the exception of North Side, which is served by a branch road which takes in Old Man Bay and joins the main road on the south coast at Frank Pound. A road-improvement scheme to provide an asphalted main road from West Bay through George Town to Bodden Town in Grand Cayman, with improvements to the existing roads to East End and North Side, was put into operation with Colonial Development and Welfare funds on 1st November 1957, and was completed early in 1960. The work was undertaken by a construction company domiciled in Nassau, Bahamas, with resident survey staff of the Jamaica Public Works Department, and periodic inspection by a representative of the Director of Public Works, Jamaica. Other roads are poor, having been built without drainage (which is usually impracticable owing to the general flatness and low level of the land), without camber, and too narrow to permit any distribution of load over the surface.

There are no regular omnibus services in Grand Cayman apart from those carrying school children but a number of motor vehicles

make regular journeys from the country districts, carrying passengers, firewood, thatch rope and small quantities of agricultural produce and, on the return journey, stores and passengers. In Cayman Brac two lorries have been converted into omnibuses and maintain a regular service from one end of the island to the other. There are approximately 500 privately-owned motor cars, trucks and station wagons in the islands. Much use is made of bicycles.

AIR SERVICES

At the end of 1960 the islands were served by two overseas airlines, British West Indian Airways (a subsidiary of B.O.A.C.), and LACSA (Lineas Aereas Costarricenses, S.A.—an affiliate of Pan American Airways). Internally the islands are served by Cayman Brac Airways, Limited (a subsidiary of LACSA). B.W.I.A. operates four services each week to and from Kingston/Grand Cayman/Miami, Florida. LACSA operates a twice-weekly service to and from Panama City/San Jose, Costa Rica/Grand Cayman/Miami. There was a steady increase in traffic during 1959 and 1960, passengers consisting principally of tourists and seamen. Extensive use was made of the Grand Cayman Airfield by freighter aircraft operated by LACSA.

Cayman Brac Airways, Limited, designated as a regular scheduled carrier, made two flights weekly in each direction between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac; the frequency was stepped up during the winter. The aircraft used for most of the period was a twin-engined Aero Commander, but this was replaced by a twin-engined Beechcraft with larger capacity towards the end of 1960. In this case also passenger traffic showed a steady increase, but unfortunately insufficient to enable the company to operate without loss, and the Government continued to pay a subsidy of £4,000 annually.

A satisfactory aspect in respect of all three passenger lines has been the increase of traffic during the summer months.

A number of improvements and additions were made during the period to the facilities at Owen Roberts Airfield. The airstrip re-surfacing was completed, the apron area surfaced, a fire engine purchased and ramp lighting installed.

At Cayman Brac the airstrip was further lengthened and the width increased. It has now reached a length of 3,255 feet. In the absence of heavy machinery at Cayman Brac this work has been carried out by hand, the surface having been built up from the underlying jagged coral rock using coral and limestone boulders. Although small it as great weight-bearing qualities.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No cable communication exists and there are no inland telegraphs. There is a wireless station at George Town, Grand Cayman, with a range of 1,000 miles and a smaller station at Cayman Brac with a range of 150 miles. Both stations work fixed schedules daily with Jamaica and messages are transmitted between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac twice daily. The station at Grand Cayman also transmits meteorological reports to Havana, Cuba, four times daily, with a greater frequency during the hurricane season.

There are inefficient telephone systems in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac; there are no private subscribers.

New equipment was installed in the George Town Government Wireless Station during 1959 which, with certain additions and modifications, may be suitable for inaugurating a radio-telephone link. Should this prove possible it is hoped to establish such a link with Miami, as a very high percentage of such traffic will be directed to the American continent.

A new two-way wireless set was installed during 1960 in Little Cayman to enable the small number of islanders there to maintain reliable and regular communication with Cayman Brac.

POSTAL SERVICES

The volume of mail has continued to increase, and revenue from the sale of stamps has grown accordingly.

A special issue of stamps of the denominations 2½d. and 1s., to commemorate the islands' new constitution, which came into effect on 4th July 1959, was on sale for a period of nine months from that date.

An acute shortage of post office boxes resulted in an order for a number of these boxes being placed with manufacturers in the United Kingdom. These had not arrived by the end of 1960.

The main post offices at George Town and Stake Bay (Cayman Brac) are supplemented by sub post offices at West Bay, Bodden Town, East End, North Side, South Sound (Grand Cayman), West End and Creek (Cayman Brac), Little Cayman and Savannah and Gun Bay (Grand Cayman). The last two named were opened during the period covered by this Report.

Mail is carried regularly between the islands and throughout Grand Cayman by contract mail carriers.

The preliminary work on a new definitive issue of Cayman Islands stamps, the first for many years, was undertaken. It is expected that this issue will be on sale by the end of 1961 or early in 1962.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

PRESS

A monthly religious tract, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, printed in Grand Cayman, carries a small amount of purely domestic news. *The Daily Gleaner*, published in Kingston, reaches Grand Cayman by air, usually three or four times a week. It has a fair circulation. A few people also receive newspapers from Miami. Official notices and announcements are published as mimeographed Government or Public Notices and displayed on notice boards throughout the islands.

FILMS

There are two open-air cinemas in George Town, Grand Cayman, one of which is open six nights a week, the other occasionally. There are also cinemas in Bodden Town, West Bay, East End and Cayman Brac.

OTHER SERVICES

There are no broadcasting or other information services.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

THE Cayman Islands consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—which lie in the Caribbean Sea between 19° 15' and 19° 45' north latitude and 79° 44' and 81° 27' west longitude. The islands are projecting peaks of the Cayman Ridge, a range of submarine mountains continuous with the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba and running west to the Misteriosa Bank in the direction of British Honduras.

Grand Cayman, which is situated about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica and about 150 miles south of Cuba, is roughly 22 miles long from east to west with a maximum width of about eight miles. Its most striking topographical feature is the shallow reef-protected harbour of North Sound, which is seven and a half miles long by six miles wide and which almost cuts the island into two parts. The area of Grand Cayman is approximately 76 square miles. The island is divided into six districts, viz., George Town (population 2,842), West Bay (population 2,433), Prospect (population included in George Town), Bodden Town (population 839), North Side (population 472) and East End (population 685).

Cayman Brac, which lies 89 miles east-north-east of Grand Cayman, is the most elevated and the most striking in appearance. It is about 12 miles in length, with an average width of a little over a mile and an area of approximately 14 square miles. Cayman Brac is divided into four districts: Stake Bay, West End, Creek and Spot Bay (population 1,508).

Little Cayman, five miles to the westward of Cayman Brac, is 10 miles long with a maximum width of two miles and an area of about 10 square miles. Little Cayman is divided into two districts: South Town (population 24) and Jacksons (no inhabitants).

The population figures shown were obtained from the 1960 census and are at present provisional.

In his *Geology of the Cayman Islands*, Dr. C. A. Matley describes the islands as follows:

"All the islands are low-lying, and do not attain anywhere a height of more than 60 feet above sea-level, except Cayman Brac, the eastern end of which rises to 140 feet. Viewed from the sea, they have a general resemblance to the flat-topped islands of the Bahama group. They are formed entirely of calcareous rocks, which the present survey has shown to be separable into two formations. An older limestone, which I call the Bluff Limestone, forms the central and larger part of each island; and a younger formation of consolidated coral-sand and marl, with some limestone, which I call the Ironshore Formation, occupies most of the periphery as a low coastal terrace, and generally terminates abruptly inland against raised marine cliffs of the Bluff Limestone. In addition to the above are the recent deposits which, at sea, are living coral-reefs and almost surround the islands of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, but occur only to a limited extent to the south-west of Cayman Brac and, ashore, consist of blown coral-sand and storm beaches of coral shingle piled up by winds, storms, and hurricanes on the seaward side of the coastal platform. All the islands are entirely devoid of streams, owing to the porosity of the limestones, and even dry valleys are absent."

Even the layman's eye can see at once that the geological formation is not conducive to modern methods of agriculture: there is an area of arable land on top of the bluff in Cayman Brac, but elsewhere cultivable soil is to be found only in pockets separated by rock, either actually outcropping, or coming so close to the surface as to prevent the use of a plough. There are many cracks and fissures in the rock, usually with fertile soil in them, and excellent citrus, pawpaws, bananas, breadfruit, and ground crops such as cassava and yams, can be grown and harvested, but only by manual labour under wasteful conditions, so that agriculture offers little reward. In some parts there are good pastures, and a few of the islanders still go in for raising cattle.

Some ten miles west of Grand Cayman is an area of shoal water known as the Cayman Bank, which is five miles long and about half-a-mile wide, with depths of 15 to 20 fathoms. Its platform-like surface is surrounded on all sides by steep slopes.

South of the Cayman group, at distances varying from 25 to 50 miles, lies the Bartlett Deep, which is some 50 to 90 miles wide and extends in an east-and-west direction from the Gulf of Honduras to Western Haiti. Ten soundings of over 3,000 fathoms have been obtained, the sounding south of Grand Cayman being 3,428 fathoms.

CLIMATE

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the greater part of the year excellent; as the islands lie in the latitude of the Trade Winds, there are few days of calm and the north-east breezes temper even the

hottest days. Only when the wind veers to the south-east or south can the temperature be deemed oppressive.

The seasons are fairly well-defined. The period May to October is the hot season, when the temperature ranges from 70° to 85° F., and the prevailing winds are from east to south. During this period the rainfall is comparatively heavy and mosquitoes can be a major pest. The cool season is from November to April when the range of temperature is 10° lower, and the prevailing winds from north-east to north-west. The pleasantest period is from mid-November to mid-March, when the weather is generally cool and there are few, if any, mosquitoes.

The total rainfall for the years 1959 and 1960 was 50.70 and 46.83 inches respectively, the average being around 50 inches per annum.

The hurricane season lasts from July to November, and the islands have been hit periodically. The last visitation of this kind was in October 1944, though in October 1952 the islands narrowly escaped severe damage, catching the edge of a hurricane whose centre passed only 40 miles to the west of Grand Cayman.

The following table shows the principal hurricanes which have struck the islands since the early part of the eighteenth century:

September,	1735	October 10th,	1846
August,	1751	October 10th,	1876
October,	1812	August 11th,	1903
June,	1836	August,	1915
August,	1835	September,	1917
September 24th,	1838	November 7-8,	1932
October 28th,	1838	July 1st,	1933
		October 14th,	1944

As will be seen, 12 of the 15 hurricanes recorded in this table occurred in the three months August-October. One of the most disastrous ever to strike the Cayman Islands was that of November 1932, which killed 69 and injured hundreds on Cayman Brac. The accompanying tidal wave completely crossed Little Cayman in places.

A meteorological station was erected in George Town, Grand Cayman, in 1935, by the Cuban Department of Agriculture, and trained observers from the National Observatory at Havana are stationed there throughout the year. Reports are transmitted four times daily to Havana, whence weather information is retransmitted throughout the Caribbean.

In 1956 a combined Anglo-United States hurricane research station was established in Grand Cayman under an agreement which has been extended until mid-1962. The station is in charge of an officer of the United States Weather Bureau, assisted by a staff of West Indians.

Chapter 2: History

So far as is known there is no evidence of occupation of the Cayman Islands by aboriginal tribes. A few stone axes found in caves, however, suggest that wandering Caribs might have visited the islands from time to time.

The recorded history of the islands begins with the sighting of the islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman by Columbus on 10th May 1503, during his fourth and last West Indian voyage. In endeavouring to make a landfall on Hispaniola after leaving Panama, he was forced well to the west of his course, when, according to the record of his son, Fernando, he passed "two very small and low islands, full of tortoises, as was all the sea about, insomuch that they looked like little rocks, for which those islands were called Las Tortugas." From this time there is almost a complete gap of 125 years, although the Cantino chart of 1502, and a somewhat later Portuguese map have been held to show the islands in their approximate positions. The Maggiolo map of 1518 is the first to show the Lesser Islands in approximately their correct location. A map dating from the period 1527-30 introduced for the first time the name "Caymanes" which was applied to the Lesser Islands now known as Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Alonzo de Santa Cruz's map of 1542 has been cited as showing "Caiman Grande" correctly located.

No early settlement was made in the islands, but from the earliest times the prodigious number of turtle found around the islands attracted ships of all nations for revictualling purposes. As many as forty sloops at a time from Port Royal alone were to be found loading turtle in Cayman waters, and Professor Archie Carr in his book *The Windward Road* has pointed out that this fecund source of fresh food for scurvy-ridden ships was a significant and important factor in the opening of the Caribbean, and had a direct and traceable effect on the course of colonisation. Captain William Jackson visited Grand Cayman in 1643 after his abortive attempt on Jamaica and describes Grand Cayman as follows:

"This place is low land and all rockye, and there be other 2 Islands of ye same name and Quallitie, being by ye Spanyards called Chimanoë, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinitt numbers of sea tortoises resorte to lay their eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Islands is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

Jamaica was taken in 1655, and, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, was ceded to the British Crown, and with it the Cayman Islands.

The islands were for a long period a favoured haunt of pirates, and "The Caymanes" are named frequently in pirate literature. Teach (Blackbeard), who was clearly not above snapping up unconsidered trifles, is recorded as having taken a "small turtler" at Grand Cayman, and the following extract from Johnsons' *General History of the Pirates*, and relating to the year 1722, is illuminating:

"I should have observed, that when the *Lucretia* and *Katherine* was suffered to go away, the Pyrates detained their Mate, who was now the only man aboard, who understood navigation, and him they desired to take upon him the Command of the Sloop, in the room of Captain Evans deceased: but he desired to be excus'd that Honour, and at length positively refused it; so they agreed to break up the Company, and leave the Mate in Possession of the Vessel: accordingly they went ashore at the Caimanes, carrying with them about nine thousand pounds amongst thirty persons: and it being fair weather, the Mate and a Boy brought the vessel into Port Royal, in Jamaica."

References towards the end of the seventeenth century indicate that there were at that time semi-permanent settlements. For example, one document dated 1670 reports a Spanish attack upon English fishermen at "Caimanos" in which the Governor's house was burned, one ship, one ketch and three sloops taken, and all the island's fishing boats destroyed. A later report of the same year mentions that Captain Rivero Pardal went ashore at "Caimanos" where he burned twenty houses, fought Captain Ary and carried out other exploits.

The earlier settlers were groups of shipwrecked sailors, marooned mariners, debtors and buccaneers. Serious settlement appears to have started at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The first grant of land was made in 1734 to Daniel Campbell, John Middleton and Mary Campbell. Mrs. Mary Bodden received a grant in 1741, at least three other grants being made at about the same time.

By the end of the eighteenth century the ruthless exploitation of Cayman turtle had so far reduced their number that their extermination was made certain, and the inhabitants of Grand Cayman (who had practically no alternative resources) were compelled to go further afield in search of new turtle fisheries. They first went north to Cuba, where their tendency to supplement fishing with wrecking and brigandage did little to commend them to the Spaniards, who as late as 1798 appealed to the Spanish Government to "wipe out the Pirate's nest" which was Grand Cayman. The Cuban turtle suffered the same fate as those in Grand Cayman, and before 1850 Caymanians had turned south to the Central American coast, where turtle fishing continues to the present day.

The islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman were permanently settled only in 1833, when several families from Grand Cayman established themselves on Cayman Brac, where they lived in isolation till 1850, when, then numbering 36, they built themselves a boat. It is interesting to note that as late as 1877 there was no administrative connection between Grand Cayman and the Lesser Islands; in 1877 a Justice of the Peace was appointed in Cayman Brac; not till 1887 was any more formal connection established; this was done in a rather absentminded fashion, and produces anomalies up to the present day.

The islands were favourably located for trade with passing shipping in the days of sail, but as the nineteenth century advanced and steam gradually replaced sail, the islands became more and more cut off from the outside world, a state of affairs which lasted, effectively, until the 1940's and the era of air transportation. The result was extensive emigration to Nicaragua, and the settlement of the Bay Islands (at one time British but now part of Spanish Honduras), and later extensive emigration to Florida.

There has been a good deal of conjecture about the origin of the name "Cayman." It has been argued that the "alligators" described by Captain Jackson were probably iguanas, and this is borne out by a French account of Drake's voyage of 1586 in which an anonymous writer states—

"... they passed by the island of Caymanas, which is not inhabited. There are on this island great serpents called 'Caymanas,' like large lizards, which are edible."

On the other hand, William Dampier, who paid several calls at the islands in 1675 and 1676 mentions "many crocodiles on the West Bay, some of which would scarcely stir out of the way." He goes on to say "at Grand Caymanes are crocodiles but no alligators . . . both kinds are called Caymanes by the Spanish," and further "crocodiles are more fierce and daring than alligators. When we go to the Isle of Pines or Grand Caymanes to hunt, we are often molested by them, especially at night."

Iguanas inhabit the islands at the present time, particularly the Lesser Islands, but there are only unconfirmed reports of the existence of crocodiles during the recent past, relating mainly to Little Cayman. All that can be said today is that the islands were either named after the crocodiles which used to inhabit them, or were named after iguanas which were mistakenly identified as crocodiles. There is historical evidence to support either of these arguments.

Chapter 3: Administration

IN the early days of settlement, public affairs were administered by Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The Justices functioned under the direction of one of their number, selected from among themselves, and styled "Governor." In 1832 the principle of representative government was accepted and elected members known as Vestrymen were added to the administrative body. At the same time the title "Custos" was substituted for that of "Governor."

An Act of Parliament passed in 1863 provided for the ratification of all prior acts of the local body receiving the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority, 20 acts, passed between 1832 and 1864, were submitted to the Governor of Jamaica, whose assent to them was given in 1865. It was further provided in the Act that the Justices and Vestry should continue to exercise legislative powers, their enactments being subject to the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under the same authority the Legislature of Jamaica could make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and could amend or repeal any of the laws passed locally.

In 1898 the powers of the Custos were vested in a Commissioner who combined administrative duties with those of a Judge of the Grand Court. This arrangement endured until 1957, when a Stipendiary Magistrate was appointed for the first time. The Stipendiary Magistrate, in the absence of the appointment of any person to be Judge, has the powers and jurisdiction of Judge of the Grand Court in all cases except capital felony.

A new constitution was introduced on 4th July 1959 under which the islands ceased to be a dependency of Jamaica. The Governor of Jamaica, however, remained the Governor of the Cayman Islands. At the same time the Commissioner was re-styled "Administrator" and the composition of the legislative body was changed. The Administrator, as in the case of the Commissioner, is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor.

Under the new constitution, the Legislative Assembly consists of the following:

The Administrator (President)

Not less than two nor more than three official members appointed by the Governor

Not less than two nor more than three nominated members appointed by the Governor

Twelve elected members.

The 1959 constitution also provides for an Executive Council as follows:

The Administrator, when the Governor is presiding but not otherwise

Two official members, appointed by the Governor

One nominated member, appointed by the Governor

Two elected members, elected by the nominated and elected members of the Assembly from among the elected members of the Assembly

The Administrator presides over the Executive Council in the absence of the Governor

Elections to the Assembly are held every three years, the next being due to be held in 1962

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President: J. Rose, M.B.E., D.F.C., *Administrator*

Official Members: E. O. Panton, M.B.E., *Assistant Administrator*
R. C. Laming, M.B.E., *Stipendiary Magistrate*
D. V. Watler, *Treasurer*

Nominated Members: W. W. Conolly
T. R. Bodden
O. L. Panton

Elected Members: E. D. Merren, George Town
R. E. McTaggart, George Town
A. C. Panton, George Town
T. W. Farrington, West Bay
J. C. Ebanks, West Bay
J. S. Banks, West Bay
M. Eden, Bodden Town
A. Bodden, Bodden Town
W. A. McLaughlin, East End
C. Ebanks, North Side
K. P. Tibbetts, Lesser Islands
N. B. Foster, Lesser Islands

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

<i>President:</i>	J. Rose, M.B.E., D.F.C. (in the absence of the Governor)
<i>Official Members:</i>	E. O. Panton, M.B.E. R. C. Laming, M.B.E.
<i>Nominated Member:</i>	T. R. Bodden
<i>Elected Members:</i>	T. W. Farrington W. A. McLaughlin

Under the present constitution, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the islands, but no law enacted by the Legislature of Jamaica shall apply to the islands unless it is in express terms applied thereto and the Governor has, by proclamation in the islands, declared that the law shall apply to them either as enacted or with such modifications as may be specified in the proclamation.

Appeals from decisions of the Grand Court may be heard in the Federal Supreme Court of The West Indies.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

IMPERIAL weights and measures are used throughout the islands.

Chapter 5: Reading List

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- GRANT, Chapman. *The herpetology of the Cayman Islands*. Kingston, Institute of Jamaica, 1940.
- HIRST, George S. S. *Notes on the history of the Cayman Islands*. Jamaica, 1910.
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- SWABEY, Christopher and LEWIS, C. Bernard. *Forestry in the Cayman Islands*. Development and Welfare in the West Indies. Bulletin No. 23, 1946.
- THOMPSON, Ernest F. *The fisheries of the Cayman Islands*. Development and Welfare in the West Indies, Bulletin No. 22, 1946.

* Copies of this work are available for study at the Administrator's Office, Grand Cayman; the Library of the University of California, Berkeley, California; the West India Reference Library, Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica. Microfilms are available at the British Museum, and at the Colonial Office Library.

Appendix I

APPENDIX I
Persons dealt with by the Courts 1959

Offences	Total arrested or sum- moned to Court	Acquitted	Nolle Prosequi	Bound over	Awaiting trial	Order made	Convicted					
							Imprisonment		Whipping		Fine	
							M	F	M	J	M	F
<i>Against lawful authority</i>												
Disorderly Conduct	187	18	—	3	—	—	6	—	—	—	135	25
Obstructing Police, etc.	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>												
Indecent Language	163	17	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	130	10
Abusive Language	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vagrancy	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
<i>Against the person</i>												
Grievous Harm	14	2	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	7	—
Wounding, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murder	63	8	—	12	—	—	6	—	—	—	30	7
Assaults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Concealment of Birth	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indecent Exposure	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2
<i>Against property</i>												
Thefts and Other Stealing	18	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	11	2
False Pretences, Cheating, Fraud, etc.	6	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
Unlawful Possession	25	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	14	—
Housebreaking	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—
Arson	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against local laws</i>												
Against Traffic Ordinance	268	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	225	3
Against Liquor Ordinance	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Bastardy	5	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	2	—
Firearms	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Towns and Communities Law	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
Immigration Law	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Representation of the Peoples Law	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	824	98	2	30	—	4	23	—	—	3	613	51

Cayman Islands: 1959 and 1960

APPENDIX II
Persons dealt with by the Courts 1960

Offences	Total arrested or sum- moned to Court	Acquitted	Nolle Prosequi	Bound over	Awaiting trial	Order made	Convicted					
							Imprisonment		Whipping		Fine	
							M	F	M	J	M	F
<i>Against lawful authority</i>												
Disorderly Conduct	123	18	—	1	—	3	5	—	—	—	80	16
Obstructing Police, etc.	19	6	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	11	—
<i>Against public morality</i>												
Indecent Language	61	12	—	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	37	6
Abusive Language	7	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Vagrancy	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>												
Grievous Harm, Wounding, etc.	16	3	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	1
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assaults	21	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
Concealment of Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Indecent Exposure	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>												
Thefts and Other Stealing	18	5	—	1	—	—	5	2	—	3	2	—
False Pretences, Cheating, Fraud, etc.	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Other—Trespass	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against local laws</i>												
Against Traffic Ordinance	98	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	85	1
Against Liquor Ordinance	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Bastardy	14	3	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	1	—
Firearms	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Towns and Communities Law	24	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Immigration Law	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	412	87	—	12	—	17	19	2	—	3	243	29

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